



## MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Land Use & Environmental Services Agency

### Code Enforcement

Q&A Consistency Meeting Agenda for Plumbing, November 2017

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1. **Question:** Is a drain required for an eyewash station?

**Answer:** No, section 411.2 exempts waste connections for emergency showers and eyewash stations.

411.2 Waste connection. Waste connections shall not be required for emergency showers and eyewash stations.

2. **Question:** Are flush valves on water closets considered quick closing and would require a water hammer arrestor?

**Answer:** No, Section 604.9 provides examples of quick closing valves; clothes washer, dish washers and ice makers. These are all electric solenoid type valves. Many manufacturers recommend the use of a water hammer arrestor, but we cannot enforce recommendations.

604.9 Water hammer. The flow velocity of the water distribution system shall be controlled to reduce the possibility of water hammer. A water-hammer arrestor shall be installed where quick-closing valves (example: clothes washers, dishwashers, ice makers) and metallic piping is used. The water-hammer arrestor shall not be required on any valves where plastic pipe is used for water distribution piping. Water-hammer arrestors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Water-hammer arrestors shall conform to ASSE 1010.

3. **Question:** Can a storage occupancy be constructed without restrooms facilities?

**Answer:** Yes, footnote "n" states "Unheated storage buildings which are used periodically are not required to have toilet rooms." Freeze protection is allowed, but the temperature cannot be more than 50 degrees, as this is the definition of conditioned space per the NCECC. There is no definition of "periodical" use; the in house interpretation is where employees don't report to the facility daily.

4. **Question:** Do water softeners require an expansion tank?

**Answer:** Expansion devices on residences are ONLY required when a backflow device is installed in the water service that prohibits the water from expanding back into the main. Manufacturer's instructions



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may require devices above those required by the Code. Expansion devices shall be supported per the manufacturer's installation instructions.

5. **Question:** If I have a small restaurant with less than 50 people, am I still required to provide metering faucets?

**Answer:** Yes, we have discussed this issue with NCDOL. In this case the occupancy would be "B" but the use is still "A". The plumbing code requirements are based on the use of the space.

6. **Question:** Is it allowable to use a backflow preventer that conforms to ASSE 1032 for carbonated beverage dispensers?

**Answer:** No, while the ASSE 1032 backflow devices are marketed for carbonated beverage dispensers, the code only recognizes the ASSE 1022 standard.

7. **Question:** Is the vent port on an ASSE 1022 device required to go to a drain?

**Answer:** Yes, we have spoken to both Watts and Zurn, they both want the vent port taken to a drain with an air gap. They both state if the backflow preventer locked open, it could potentially discharge a significant amount of water.